

Application ser. no. 10/769,153

CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method comprising steps of:
inserting a catheter into a body at a selected location;
positioning at least one electrode and irrigation and aspiration port in said body so that one or more electrodes are proximate to a surface of the tissue to be treated;
aspirating said tissue so as to conform it to the at least one electrode;
allowing passage of a flowable substance through to said one surface; and
delivering any of energy and chemical treatment from at least one electrode proximate to said one surface; and
selecting and activating said electrodes by an operator, individually and as sequences of electrodes disposed in arrays.
2. cancelled.
3. (previously presented) A method as in claim 1, including a step of inserting said catheter either laparoscopically or manually into said selected location.
4. (previously presented) A method as in claim 1, wherein said applied energy includes one or more of a group consisting of:
Rf energy at about 300 to about 500 kilohertz;
photodynamic therapy;
microwave energy in about the 915 megahertz to 2.45 gigahertz range; sonic energy; and
infrared;
and
wherein said chemical treatment includes one or more of a group consisting of:
enzymes;
acid-base reactions;

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radioactive tracers; and
chemical desiccants.

5. (previously presented) A method as in claim 1, including a step of providing a liquid-tight seal by means of a shielding element in a region proximate to said selected location.
6. (previously presented) A method as in claim 5, wherein said shielding element comprises any of a group consisting of an inflatable balloon, a sponge and a polymer shield.
7. (cancelled) A method as in claim 1, including a step of.
8. (previously presented) A method as in claim 1, including a step of delivering sensor output from said selected location to a location outside said body.
9. (previously presented) A method as in claim 1, wherein said step of delivering sensor output includes a step of providing at least one of a group consisting of:
 - an electromagnetic impedance sensor;
 - an optical sensor;
 - a conductivity sensor;
 - a pH sensor;
 - a pressure sensor;
 - a temperature sensor; and a
 - sensor that detect nervous activity.
10. (original) A method as in claim 1, including a step of regulating a temperature proximate to said selected location.
11. (previously presented) A method as in claim 10, wherein said step of regulating uses a chilled liquid disposed proximate to said one surface.

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12. (withdrawn) A method as in claim 10, wherein said step of regulating relies upon the volume of the said chilled liquid to shape said balloon so as to occupy the interior of said body cavity and bring said at least one electrode into proximity with said body cavity.

13. (withdrawn) A method as in claim 12, including a step of manipulating a pullwire to alter the shape of said balloon to bring said at least one electrode into proximity with said body cavity.

14. (withdrawn) A method as in claim 1, including a step of manipulating a pullwire to alter the position of a set of umbrella-like struts to bring said at least one electrode into proximity with said body cavity.

15. (previously presented) A method as in claim 1, including a step of delivering a flowable substance to said selected location, said flowable substance being responsive to any of a group consisting of said energy and chemical treatment.

16. (previously presented) A method as in claim 15, including a step of eliciting a selected response to any of said group consisting of energy and chemical treatment.

17. (previously presented) A method as in claim 16, said step of eliciting said selected response including any of the steps of:

- receiving any of a group consisting of said energy and chemical treatment for any of a group consisting of ablation, coating, expansion, plumping, shaping and shrinking tissue;

- mapping position of nerves and stimulating them;

- shrinking a sphincter by creating a pattern of thermal lesions;

- reducing compliance or stiffness in a tissue;

- reducing strain on a tissue by changing the relative geometry thereof; and
- delivering a drug.

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18. (original) A method as in claim 1, including a step of controlling application of said energy and/or chemical treatment within an interior region of a body cavity.

19. (original) A method as in claim 18, wherein said step of controlling application includes a step of distributing said energy and/or chemical treatment uniformly in said interior region.

20. (original) A method as in claim 1, including a step of delivering a flowable substance from outside the body to said selected location.

21. (previously presented) A method as in claim 20, wherein said flowable substance includes at least one of a group consisting of:

a drug, a gas, a radioisotope, an analgesic, an antibiotic, an antiinflammatory, an anti-spasmodic and a bulking agent.

22. (previously presented) A method as in claim 21, wherein said bulking agent comprises any of a group consisting of:

microbeads suspended in a delivery vehicle;

glycerin; and

saline.

23. (previously presented) A method as in claim 1, wherein said selected location is disposed within a human being or other mammal; and

said energy and/or chemical treatment is delivered proximate to said selected location to any of a group consisting of a sphincter, muscle tissue, and nerve tissue.

24. (previously presented) A method as in claim 23, wherein said sphincter or tissue is proximate to any of a group consisting of a bladder, esophagus, uterus, fallopian tube, vas deferens, sinus cavity, aorta, larynx and pharynx.

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25. (previously presented) A method as in claim 23, wherein the sphincter or tissue includes any of a group consisting of:

the trigone area of a bladder; the detrusor muscles of any of a group consisting of a bladder, the bladder neck, and the urethra and nerves that inform any of a group consisting of said trigone area, said detrusor muscles, said bladder neck and said urethra.